immigrated to USA every year from poor countries of Asia and other continents and they are exploited there;

(b) if so, the number of women and children immigrated to USA, so far, during the last three years;

(c) whether her Ministry has approached the Ministry of External Affairs to intervene in the matter; and

(d) if so, their reaction on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The details of women and children emigrating to USA from poor countries of Asia and other continents are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

SC Status to Nav-shudras of Udham Singh Nagar of Uttaranchal

†882. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1309, given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th June, 1998, and state:

(a) the reasons for deferring this matter;

(b) Government's view in the matter; and

(c) by when, the people belonging to the Nav-shudra Caste residing in Udham Singh Nagar in Uttaranchal would be accorded the status of Scheduled Caste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Unstarred Question 1309 for 8th June 1998 relates to amendment of lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This matter is processed as per provision under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution and Modalities laid down for considering modifications in the list of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) proposals for modification in the list of Scheduled Caste are to processed in consultation with the concerned State Government, Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which takes considerable time and it is not possible to indicate any time frame for finalizing such proposal.

Schemes for People below Poverty Line in Arunachal Pradesh

883. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched some schemes and programmes for upliftment of poor people living below the poverty line in the state of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in formulation and implementation of such welfare schemes in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Government, in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, have launched several schemes for the upliftment of the people belonging to the weaker sections such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities, children disabled, aged persons, including those among these weaker sections who are living below the poverty line. These schemes are also available in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of Residential Schools for SCs/STs

884. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to assist construction of more residential schools for SCs and STs as Centrally-sponsored scheme and to share 50 per cent of the maintenance costs as welfare measure; and